

OUR HONORED DEAD

DR. DEROSSET'S MEMORY EULOGIZED YESTERDAY

Interesting Proceedings of the Produce Exchange-St. James Vestry Take Action. The Chamber of Commerce to Meet—The Funeral

On account of the death of the venerable Dr. A. J. DeRosset, at 11:30 o'clock Thursday night, the rooms of the Produce Exchange were draped in mourning yesterday and a special meeting of that body was called at 4 p. m. to take action with reference to the passing away of this greatly esteemed citizen and former member of the exchange.

Mr. Oscar Pearsall, president of the exchange, being absent, Mr. H. G. Smallbones, vice president, called the exchange to order and announced the object of the meeting.

Colonel John L. Cantwell, the secretary, was in attendance and the following gentlemen were present: Messrs. James H. Chadbourn, H. K. Nash, M. S. Willard, C. E. Borden, George Rountree, C. H. Robinson, James Sprunt, E. Lilly, J. G. Boney, H. C. McQueen, S. P. McNair, John Frank, B. F. Hall, Wm. Calder, Colonel John Wilder Atkinson and Captain W. R. Kenan.

When the object of the meeting had been stated, Mr. H. K. Nash moved that the president appoint a committee on resolutions.

The motion was adopted, and the chairman appointed the following committee: Messrs. James H. Chadbourn, chairman, H. K. Nash and M. S. Willard. The committee then retired.

Mr. C. H. Robinson moved that as Dr. DeRosset was not a member of the exchange at the time of his death, and as he was so generally esteemed in the community, that those not members of the exchange be invited to participate in the meeting. The motion was adopted.

The chairman then announced that in the absence of the committee on resolutions, the meeting was open for remarks.

Mr. James Sprunt said:

"Actuated by motives of profound respect and veneration for the person and character of the distinguished citizen, whose death has bereaved our devoted city, and by the feelings and sympathies which this sad occasion inspires, I would add my humble tribute to the loving memory of one, whose exalted virtues have been for more than half a century, as household words in the community by which he was always honored and revered.

"In the busy walks of life, in the ever increasing struggle for the necessities and the vanities which rob us of the homages due to nobler things, we often forget the debts of our birth and inheritance, which we owe to those whose diligence and devotion, whose patriotic presence, achieved the blessings which we now enjoy.

"I never read the story of the building in 1836-7 of our Wilmington railroad, now the trunk of a system, the best managed and most successful in our country, without feelings of grateful admiration for the noble spirits who conceived it, and for the generous hearts who staked their all in its accomplishment. But, alas! who speaks of it now? Who tells his children of the splendid talents, the skillful industry, the courageous perseverance, of these intrepid Wilmingtonians, who, in the earliest days of railroads, in a village of a few hundred white population, remote from the scenes and influences of the country's progress, projected and completed, with almost their own means, and fortunes, (masterfully subserved by the rare sagacity and successful negotiations of one who had survived them all), the longest railway in the world?

"Would that the spirit that animated the heart of a Dudley, of a Dickinson, of an Ashe, of a Lazarus, of an Owen, of a Hall, of a MacRae, of an Anderson, of a Parsley, of a Nutt, of a DeRosset, might quicken the rising generation of Wilmington's sons to equal effort, for the welfare of our community.

"Endued with remarkable intellectual gifts, Dr. DeRosset, as a lad, completed his preparations for college at the early age of 14 years. The story of his extraordinary matriculation in the Sophomore class at the state university, while he was in charge of a faithful domestic, who attended to his direction of his parents, and of the characteristic name by which he was known to his fellow students, of 'Little Breeches,' is still a proud and pleasing memory of Chapel Hill, where he was graduated with honors, in 1824, at the age of 17 years.

"Of his later life, as the beloved physician, the successful and upright merchant, the trusted leader of internal improvement, the wise counselor and director, the honored representative of the affairs of the church, the devoted and humble Christian, the aged and revered citizen, I shall not presume to speak at length.

"What stirring memories of our ancient borough, grown to the noble city of this town, refused to succor King George's hostile ships in the Wilmington river, for, in each epoch of our Cape Fear history, we find its representatives the same in public spirit, and in private excellence. He was among the last of a noble class of southerners, that is fast dying out, the highest type of our humanity that ever graced this continent, of whom we like to read in story books, but whom we seldom meet in real life. Who of us can forget the firm elastic step, the gracious dignified presence, the beaming benevolent countenance, the exquisite high bred courtesy, the cordial unaffected affability of him, who bore without abuse the grand old name of gentleman? He ever exemplified in his daily walk and conversation, the fruits of our holy religion; for he added to his faith, virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, charity.

"He had witnessed the joys and sorrows of nearly five generations of our inhabitants; and since that bleak day

in February, 1855, when he left the lonely, lamb-marked grave in Oakdale, which cast a shadow through his life, he had survived more than five thousand of our people, whose dust now mingles with its Mother Earth, in that silent city of the dead. In war, in pestilence and in famine, he was ever faithful, and trusted, and true; and at last, like a full shock of ripe grain, that has been shattered by the blast, he, too, has been cut down by the reaper of death, and he shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more. The closing year of his unsullied life was marked by constant suffering, in which the kindly sympathy of the community was tenderly manifested. For a time, he resisted the disease with wonderful vigor at his age, but it was lately seen by those around him, that the soul was 'soon to leave its mortal tenement, and was already closing up its windows, and putting out its fires.' To him the King of Terrors brought no fears. Supported by the everlasting Arms, he saw beyond the gathering darkness of the valley, the steady and increasing light of an eternal day.

"Surrounded by those most dear to him on earth, in the house of his birth, he breathed unconsciously until near the turn of midnight, the vital spark still lingering.

"But when the sun in all his state, 'Illuminated skies,' 'He passed through Glory's morning gate,' 'And walked in Paradise.'

"Mr. President and gentlemen, the years of 1856 and 1857 are marked to the memory of some of our noblest, and our best—George Davis, Alfred Martin, John S. James, David G. Worth, Armand J. DeRosset—a galaxy of 'moral excellence, the most perfect; of intellectual ability, the most eminent; of fidelity, the most unwavering.' By the light of their lofty deeds and kindly virtues, memory gazes back into the past, and is content; by the light of Revelation, hope looks beyond the grave, into the bright day of immortality, and is happy."

Mr. C. H. Robinson moved that the remarks of Mr. Sprunt be appended to the resolutions to be reported by the committee, and adopted as the sentiments of this exchange. The motion was adopted.

The committee having returned, Mr. James H. Chadbourn submitted the resolutions and said:

"Before offering the resolutions prepared by the committee I beg leave to say a single word for myself. I have known Dr. DeRosset for nearly a half century. The great respect I had for him at first has, in more recent years, grown into admiration and love, and I know of no man, I never have known a man, whose character and whose life, in all its relations, were more worthy of imitation than his."

Mr. Chadbourn then read the following resolutions:

The produce exchange is called upon to express its sorrow for the removal from earth of one of its founders, and its oldest charter member.

The exchange was organized in April, 1873, by twenty-one firms in this city, and the first name on the list was DeRosset & Co.

On the 16th of September following, the incorporation meeting was held and the first named incorporator was A. J. DeRosset, and he remained a member until he retired from all business.

Resolved, That the fact of his membership of this body, while it would justify a formal expression of grief at his death, constitutes but the smallest part of his claim to our consideration. He was not only an enlightened, public-spirited, and able merchant, but was a model of integrity in business, and had established that character before a majority of us were born. No man has ever lived in this community who commanded more universal respect than he, and therefore it is

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Armand J. DeRosset this exchange has lost its most venerable and profoundly respected member, whose stainless character will be cherished as one of its proudest memories, and whose conduct in all the relations of life will serve as an example to those who survive him.

Resolved, That the members of this exchange be requested to meet at 10 o'clock, December 11th, and attend the funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to his family, with the respectful sympathy of this body, and be published in the city papers. (Signed) JAS. H. CHADBURN, (Signed) M. S. WILLARD, (Signed) H. K. NASH, Committee.

Colonel John Wilder Atkinson said: "There was one characteristic of Dr. DeRosset which especially impressed me, and that was his firm integrity and high sense of honor. Nothing could induce him to swerve from his ideal of right. I recall now his course when he was in the hands of the law, when he was financially embarrassed, and over which he was, which may well be an example to us.

"He had sent for the late Mr. Donald MacRae and myself to advise with him. His creditors had offered to compromise with him, I think, at fifty cents on the dollar. He sternly refused any compromise, saying he owed the entire debt, and if he sold his property, it would yield enough to pay his debt in full. With this purpose he surrendered the handsome house in which he lived, which he had built, and in which most of his children were born, and to which he was greatly attached, and cheerfully took up his abode in a much humbler dwelling.

And we all remember how resolutely, and with apparent cheerfulness, he went to work as a clerk on a small stipend, seemingly determined to earn his own living; and this was when he had passed three score years and ten. Gentlemen, his was an example in all those respects, which we would do well to emulate, should business misfortunes overtake us. Unfortunately, we rarely meet in these days such excellent virtue."

Mr. H. K. Nash speaking to the resolutions submitted by the committee said:

"Mr. President:—In seconding these resolutions I wish to say a few words to express my idea of the loss—not to the exchange only but to the community—the loss of Dr. DeRosset. I think we have lost a noble man, and in him we have lost that which has been accepted as the noblest work of God—an honest man. We all know the character he has established here. We all know how much of love and affection was felt for him in Wilmington. Has there been a nobler man, or a more generous, faithful and more intelligent, faithful and more devoted servant? We praise God that He has seen fit to take him to the rest that remaineth

for His children, and we shall ever hold in grateful remembrance his generous and unselfish efforts for the establishment of this parish.

On motion of Mr. C. E. Borden, the resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

Further remarks being announced in order, the Rev. P. H. Hoge, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church, said:

"I only learned of this meeting a few moments ago, but desired to come that I might express, at least by my presence, my sense of the honor due to one of so great goodness as Dr. DeRosset. I need not say anything to you who knew him in eulogy upon his character—that incorruptible integrity, that exquisite sense of honor, that sweet courtesy of his manners, and the gentleness and benevolence of his disposition. But I would like to throw out this thought, that no church or creed has a monopoly of that which we call character. Only a few weeks ago you assembled here to do honor to the memory of a man whose character was formed in the church that I represent, for these same characteristics of heart and conscience, that you now delight to honor and recall in the life of one whose religious training and associations were in another great historic church. So we see that wherever the gospel of Christ enters the life of a man, no matter under what diversity of form or statement, it produces the same points of character. And it is an especial pleasure to hear this testimony in the case of Dr. DeRosset, because there was nothing narrow about his religious sympathies. Though ardently devoted to his own church, and bearing honored positions in his parish and diocese, his interest and sympathies went out to all. Some years ago when I myself was ill with fever, there were no kinder inquiries than he made, and from whom I received a more cordial welcome on my return. When the church I now serve lost its building by fire, the first contribution received was a check for \$250 from Dr. DeRosset & Brown—sent in the next morning while the embers were still hot. It is incidents like these that draw us together, and reminds us that we are servants of one Master, and have one mission here—to build up a character like the sons of God."

Mr. C. H. Robinson also addressed the meeting. He said when he was a young man he first arrived in Wilmington in 1852 and brought a letter of introduction to Dr. DeRosset's father. He received me very courteously and went with me to the office of his son and introduced me to him. He was very polite and courteous and kind to me, and since he has been my unfailing friend and counselor. We cannot say too much of the character of such a man as Dr. DeRosset and those like him who have gone before. Their lives are an inspiration to us and keep us in the right way.

Mr. H. G. Smallbones said he came to Wilmington a stranger in 1869, and Dr. DeRosset was one of the first to come to him and extend to him the hand of friendship and welcome. Everybody knows of his unbounded hospitality. His keep open house and had a warm welcome for strangers and foreigners and especially hunted up Englishmen and Scotchmen. He was my best friend, and therefore, I am obliged to say something on this occasion.

The meeting then adjourned. ST. JAMES' VESTRY TAKES ACTION. A special meeting of the vestry of St. James' church was held at half past three yesterday afternoon to take suitable action upon the death of Dr. A. J. DeRosset, the lamented senior warden of the parish. The following memorial was presented by the committee appointed for that purpose, and was unanimously adopted:

1897. DR. ARMAND J. DE ROSSET. 1897. "After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

The Angel of Death has come again, and brought succor of labor and pain to this most venerable and beloved of the members of the parish of St. James, Dr. DeRosset was called to his rest in Paradise last night at 11:30 o'clock, and with profound sorrow and a deep sense of our personal loss, as well as the loss to this church, we have to record the death of our records this memorial of our revered senior warden.

Paid in all things to the church, a loyal friend, endowed with a clear mind and sound judgment—these rendered him a power for good, and a wise counselor to his parish, and to the community. He was the foremost member of this parish in influence and efficiency. In disposition he was genial, in bearing courteous, in dealing just, in benefactions generous.

A few years ago he began to show marked signs of a fatal malady. His bodily suffering was great, some times intense, but through it he remained calm and brave and gentle. From first to last, we believe, no word of complaint escaped him. He died as he had lived.

Of Dr. DeRosset's life, amid the sacred privacy of his home, filled as it was with all that makes home dear, it is not our privilege to speak, but to the family we respectfully tender the assurance that while our hearty sympathy goes out to them in their present sorrow, we share also in the consolation that that sorrow is softened by the glorious assurance that, "It is well with him." A life such as his rebukes our grief, renews our faith, and inspires a deeper trust in the wisdom and the goodness of God.

JOHN WILDER ATKINSON, CLAYTON GILES, HENRY A. BURE, Committee for the Vestry.

A committee was also appointed to furnish a sketch of Dr. DeRosset's eminent services to the parish, to be reported at the next meeting, and to enter in the records of the parish. The vestry furthermore resolved to meet at the church at half past 10 o'clock this morning, to attend the funeral in a body, as a testimonial of their high esteem.

SYMPATHY FROM ST. JOHN'S PARISH.

The following communication was received yesterday by the bereaved family:

To the Family of the late A. J. De Rosset, M. D.: We send you our tender sympathy in the loss of your beloved parent.

We bless God that He gave to the community so broad, pure and true a citizen, and to the church so intelligent, faithful and devoted a servant.

We praise God that He has seen fit to take him to the rest that remaineth

for His children, and we shall ever hold in grateful remembrance his generous and unselfish efforts for the establishment of this parish.

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was overlaid with many beautiful floral tributes.

ACTION BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Pursuant to the call of President James H. Chadbourn, Jr., the Chamber of Commerce met yesterday at 3:30 o'clock to take action with respect to the memory of the lamented Dr. A. J. DeRosset. The following were present:

Colonel Walker Taylor, vice president, Colonel John L. Cantwell, secretary, Colonel F. W. Kerchner, Colonel J. G. Burr, Captain James I. Metts, Rev. P. H. Hoge, D. D., and Messrs. W. M. Cumming, George Harris, J. A. Springer, J. H. Cowan, T. W. Clawson, Junius Davis, J. Allen Taylor, H. K. Nash, M. S. Willard, Z. W. Whitehead, Geo. R. French, and N. Jacob.

In the absence of President Chadbourn, Vice President Taylor called the meeting to order, and upon stating the object of the meeting, remarked that it was seldom the chamber had ever met so often as it has in the past few weeks to pay tribute to the memory of two such men as Dr. DeRosset and Mr. D. G. Worth. He said a committee on resolutions, consisting of Colonel F. W. Kerchner, Colonel Jas. S. Burr and Mr. George Harris, had been requested to prepare a record to be presented to this meeting and spread upon the minutes, and asked if the committee was ready to report.

Colonel Kerchner thereupon submitted the following, and upon his request, it was feelingly and beautifully read by Secretary Cantwell, to-wit:

"This community, as well as the entire state, have lost in Dr. A. J. DeRosset one of its most useful and valued citizens, one who was pre-eminent among the best in every characteristic that dignifies good citizenship. Not even the language of bereavement can easily exaggerate his claims, upon private affection and public regard and respect. He had, in the highest degree, all the instincts which set men right and make them true, and all the right and make them true, and all the courage and conscience and unselfishness, which keep them so. His sense of duty, in every relation, was so blended with an active sense of the obligation to discharge it that no temptation could swerve and no sacrifice could hinder him. With all the kindly and gentle gifts which make men loved by those about them, he united the sternness and moral stalwart of the qualities on which communities may lean in times of crisis or of peril. Only those who have seen him tried, could realize how largely the elements of leadership were mingled with the simple and tender traits of his quiet and modest life.

The people among whom he lived so long and of whom he deserved so well, will undoubtedly do larger justice to his memory. It is only for us, his associates and friends at this meeting—many of them his life-long companions—to bear sorrowful witness to their personal loss and their painful incapacity to measure it."

The chairman asked if there were any remarks upon the record offered, and Colonel James G. Burr said:

"Mr. Chairman: It has been my good fortune for more than sixty years to be on terms of close intimacy with the late Dr. DeRosset, and I desire, therefore, to say a word or two on this occasion, to speak of those noble qualities of head and heart which so adorned and beautified his character. He was not 'every inch a king,' but was greater—he was every inch a man, with lofty ideas, high sense of honor, ennobling virtues and warm affections, who could not be swayed from the path of duty by any allurements of pleasure or of profit, whose daily walk throughout his long and honored life, commanded not only the respect but the affection of our people, and who carried with him to the grave, the unconvincing reverence of all classes of society. He was a connecting link between the present and the past, a high standing gentleman of the old school, always courteous and urbane and ever ready, by counsel and advice, to assist any and all, who might stand in need of his enlarged experience.

"This chamber will miss his genial greeting, his words of wisdom, his courtesy and kindness and the amiability which was so characteristic of his personality and general intercourse, and each individual member must feel that he, himself, suffers a personal bereavement in the death of one whom all so delighted to honor. A just, an upright Christian gentleman, and a citizen without reproach, whose memory will be embalmed in our hearts for all time, has gone to his rest, leaving behind him not an enemy in the world, and for those who follow after the memory of an honorable, a useful and a virtuous life, worthy of all imitation, and to be held in the profoundest veneration."

After Colonel Burr had concluded his remarks beautiful tributes were paid to Dr. DeRosset's memory by Mr. W. M. Cumming, Dr. P. H. Hoge, and Messrs. M. S. Willard and N. Jacob.

The record submitted by the committee was then unanimously adopted by a standing vote, after which the meeting adjourned.

A match between two dentists would be very likely to result in a draw. Newspapers and bootblacks polish the understanding of their patrons.

no 18 d&w

no 26 d&w

Prince Henry to Visit Emperor of China. Berlin, December 11.—The representative here of The Associated Press is informed that Prince Henry, of Prussia, who has been appointed to the command of the German squadron on the coast of China, will visit Peking, where the Chinese emperor will receive him as an equal, an unusual honor. Prince Henry, it is announced, is the bearer of a message from Emperor William to the Chinese emperor, in which is included a programme of Chinese reforms.

It never reduces the size of a claim, against an estate to file it.

PIMPLY FACES

Pimples, blotches, blackheads, red, rough, oily, mothy skin, itching, scaly scalp, dry, thin, and falling hair, and baby blemishes prevented by CUTICURA SOAP, the most effective skin purifying and beautifying soap in the world, as well as purest and sweetest for toilet, bath, and nursery.

Cuticura

Is sold throughout the world. Preparing D. & C. Co., Sole Proprietors, Boston, U.S.A. How to Beautify the Skin. Free.

BLOOD HUMORS. Permanently Cured by CUTICURA SOAP.

Executors' Notice!

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING THIS day qualified as Executors of the will of David G. Worth, deceased, hereby notify all persons holding claims against said David G. Worth to present the same to them for payment on or before the 10th day of December, A. D. 1897, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. This December 9th, 1897. CHARLES W. WORTH, JAMES S. WORTH, Executors of David G. Worth, Deceased. de 19 1w weekly 5w

WANTED

TEACHER FOR SIX MONTHS School to begin about January 1st. Write experience and salary expected. Give reference. J. P. COUNCIL, Jr., Councils Station, N. C. de 19 3t fri su wed wky 1t

WE OFFER TO THE TRADE

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